



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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March 22, 2013

Sen. Coleman, Rep. Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 123: AN ACT REPEALING THE RISK REDUCTION CREDIT PROGRAM.

Rape, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual molestation of a child under 13.

The people of my district shake their heads in disbelief when I tell them that these are just some of the violent felonies which fall under Connecticut's Risk Reduction Credit Law.

In other words, those who have been found guilty of those above crimes are eligible to earn as many as five days off their prison sentences each month.

Think of the message that this law sends to violent crime victims and their families. Why do the rapist, the kidnapper, the assailant and the molester all get a significant break on their prison sentence?

This is an initiative of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. It was enacted in 2011. Last June, an inmate named Frankie "The Razor" Resto who had been released early under the program was accused of murdering a Meriden store owner Ibrahim Ghazal in a robbery. That heinous crime underscored an obvious problem with this new law. How could Resto have gotten out of jail early? Because he earned those credits. My constituents ask me, "How could a person with such a violent record get those credits?"

Senate Bill 123 would bar inmates convicted of violent crimes from receiving credits. I urge you to pass this bill. In doing so, you will help prevent future tragedies like the one the Ghazal family had had to endure. By passing this bill, you will send a message to victims of violent crime that their government cares and that their voices do get heard. This bill will make our communities safer and right a legislative wrong.

Art Linares
State Senator